

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SE, EUR/P, S/PRS, PA: ALSO PASS NSC FOR
DR BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR POWELL

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS/PN: TURKISH AND GREEK SERVICES, IBS/PC,
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), TU
SUBJ: TURKISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO TURKEY

LIBERAL DAILY, MILLIYET CARRIES IN ITS LATE SUNDAY
(JAN. 22) EDITION AND IN ITS MONDAY EDITIONS TWO-PART
EDITORIAL BY TURKEY'S PROMINENT COMMENTATOR ABDI IPEKCI.

IPEKCI POINTS OUT DIFFERENT STYLE OF NEW TURKISH
GOVERNMENT IN ITS TALK WITH SECSTATE. HE BELIEVES THIS
SURPRISED AMERICANS. BECAUSE US SIDE WAS UNPREPARED FOR
THIS CHANGE, IPEKCI CLAIMS NO DEFINITIVE U.S. ANSWERS
WERE GIVEN TO ECEVIT. INSTEAD, IT WAS AGREED THAT
DIALOGUE SHOULD CONTINUE.

INSTEAD OF THE CUSTOMARY TURKISH COMPLAINTS ABOUT
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ELEMENTS IN U.S. TURKISH RELATIONS, IPEKCI WRITES,
THE NEW GOVERNMENT PUT THESE BILATERAL RELATIONS
INTO A GLOBAL CONTEXT. "VANCE WAS NOT READY FOR
THIS DIFFERENT APPROACH," IPEKCI WRITES.

"FOR THIS REASON HE WAS UNABLE TO MAKE IMMEDIATE
DECISIONS ON MANY OF ECEVIT'S NEW POINTS. THUS,

IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO
CONTRIES SHOULD CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE."

EDITORIAL THEN ENUMERATES POINTS MADE BY ECEVIT
AS FOLLOWS:

TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM
GLOBAL ISSUES.

TURKEY WANTS TO SEPARATE ITS PROBLEMS WITH GREECE
FROM BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND ASKS U.S.
NOT TO INTERFERE.

ECEVIT ALSO WANTS TO SEPARATE EMBARGO FROM DCA
BECAUSE, AS IPEKCI POINTS OUT, EMBARGO IS A
NEGATIVE ELEMENT IN U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS WHILE
DCA IS A POSITIVE ONE.

FIRST EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "NOW WASHINGTON WILL
SEIZE UP SITUATION IN A POSITIVE VEIN. WE
HOPE GREECE WILL NOT SPOIL THIS ATMOSPHERE.
SUCH AN ATTEMPT WOULD NOT ONLY DAMAGE U.S.-TURKISH
RELATIONS, BUT WOULD ALSO UNDERMINE A TURKISH-
GREEK RAPPROACHMENT, ESCALATE TENSIONS IN THE
AREA AND ENDANGER AN AGREEMENT ON CYPRUS."

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DURING MONDAY'S INSTALLMENT, ENTITLED, "WHAT
ECEVIT DESIRES FROM US", IPEKCI FOCUSES ON
TURKISH PROPOSALS AND SPECULATES ON CONSEQUENCES
IF TURKISH HOPES ARE NOT REALIZED.

EDITORIAL LISTS TURKISH DESIRES AS FOLLOWS:

1. ARMS EMBARGO SHOULD BE LIFTED.
2. DCA DOES NOT MEET NEEDS OF PRESENT CONDITIONS,
HENCE SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE
REDUCED PURCHASING POWER OF THE DOLLAR AND THE
INCREASED PRICES FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT.
3. DEFENSE ISSUED CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM ECONOMIC
SITUATION. TURKEY PRESENTLY FACES ECONOMIC
DIFFICULTIES. SHE MUST STRENGTHEN HER ECONOMY
IN ORDER TO FULFILL HER COLLECTIVE DEFENSE
RESPONSIBILITIES. THEREFORE, THE U.S. SHOULD
ASSIST TURKEY IN THIS TASK (IMPROVEMENT OF THE
ECONOMIC SITUATION). U.S. SHOULD DO SO EITHER
DIRECTLY, OR BY USING HER INFLUENCE WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.
4. TURKEY CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN COLLECTIVE
DEFENSE IN WAYS WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE THE USSR.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED OF HER.

EDITORIAL CONTINUES, "WHAT IF ECEVIT'S DESIRES, WHICH WERE COMMUNICATED TO VANCE, ARE NOT MET? THEN TURKEY WOULD CONSIDER HERSELF FREE FROM THE RESPONSIBILITIES SHE SHARES WITH THE U.S. AND NATO IN COLLECTIVE DEFENSE. AND SHE WILL DO THIS (RENOUNCE THIS RESPONSIBILITY) NOT TO BLACKMAIL THE U.S. BUT TO SAFEGUARD HER NATIONAL INTEREST."

IPEKCI CLARIFIES THIS BY SAYING, "THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE WHICH TURKEY SHARES WITH US AND NATO IS A SYSTEM DESIGNED (FOR PROTECTION) AGAINST
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RUSSIA. THE OLD SOVIET PRESSURE IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE. IN THE MEANTIME, ALL OF TURKEY'S OTHER NEIGHBORS ARE BEING ARMED. THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE SYSTEM WILL WORK ONLY IF THE DANGER COMES FROM THE SOVIET BLOC. BUT TURKEY MUST BE IN A POSITION TO DEFEND HER NATIONAL SECURITY AGAINST ALL OTHER DANGERS BY HER OWN MEANS."

THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "ECEVIT DID NOT MENTION THESE POSSIBILITIES, BECAUSE THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS THREATS. BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT TURKEY SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A GUARD (OF WESTERN SECURITY) WHO WILL FULFILL HER DUTIES IN EXCHANGE FOR A PAT ON THE BACK ONLY."
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